(b) whether under the above action plan Government propose to develop places showing Indian Culture and Civilization; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The National Action Plan for Tourism was laid in the Parliament on 5.5.92. The objectives of the Action Plan are as under:—

- Socio-economic development of areas
- Increasing employment opportunities
- Developing domestic tourism especially for the budget category
- Preservation of nation heritage and environment.
- Development of international tourism and optimisation of foreign exchange earnings.
- Diversification of the tourism product, and
- Increase in India's Share in World tourism.

(b) and (c) The action plan envisages development of tourist centres depicting Indian Culture and Civilization at the identified tourist destinations|circuits. The Plan also envisages setting up of craft villages and organisation of fairs and festivals so as to project Indian Culture and Civilization.

Functioning of Indian Airlines

465. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL:

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the report appearing in the *Indian Express* dated 24th June, 1992 highlighting the unsatisfactory functioning of Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps Government propose to take to remove the deficiencies in its functioning?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Incidents of industrial unrest/agitations, employee indiscipline, lack of coordination between Departments, shortage of aircraft spares, short-comings in aircraft maintenance and passenger handling in Indian Airlines have been reported. The situation is being closely monitored and the Indian Airlines management advised to take appropriate steps to overcome these short-comings and improve the functioning.

Airbus A-300 stranded at Nagpur

466. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Airbus-A-300 carrying over 200 passengers in its flight IC 540-Madras-Delhi had to be diverted to Nagpur where it was stranded for more than 24 hours as the Airlines engineers failed to carry out the repairs;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what measures have been taken to revamp the engineering department to avoid recurrance of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The aircraft operating IC-539 of 24.6.92 from Madras to Delhi was grounded at Nagpur at 2340 hours due to a technical snag. For rectification of the snag men and material were sent from Bombay on 25.6.1992. The delayed

flight reached Delhi at 0530 hours on 26.6.92.

(c) The incident is under investigation by the permanent Investigation Board of Indian Airlines and action, if found necessary, will be taken on the basis of the investigation report.

Merger of International Airport Authority with National Airport Authority

467. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to merge International Airport Authority with the National Airport Authority;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefore; and

(c) what is the way in which the merger will facilitate the smooth working of the Airports Authority?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The proposal is under consideration.

Helicopter Services to North-Eastern Region

468. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised a scheme to start helicopter services linking up North-Eastern Areas with important centres;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) by when the scheme is likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) A proposal for introduction of helicopter services in the North Eastern region is under formulation.

Air link with Israel and South Africa

469. SHRI P. UPENDRA:
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether plans for new links with Israel and South Africa have been finalised in the fields of air travel and tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when these plans are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) No plans have been finalised for airlinking India and South Africa as yet.

With regard to Israel, it has been agreed by the two Governments to permit the designated airline to operate upto 2 frequencies with not more than 500 seats per week in each direction between the two countries. However, neither Air India nor EL AL (Israeli Airline) propose to introduce services on this route at present.

Use of Bangalore as a Transit Station

470. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bangalore has been made a transit station with no flights originating;

(b) whether it is also a fact that several flights originating from Madras are routed through Bangalore because later is capable of generating traffic; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?